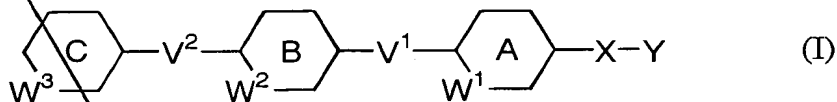


Claims

1. A pharmaceutical composition for use as a Th2 differentiation inhibitor comprising a compound represented by Formula (I):



wherein each of ring A, ring B and ring C is independently an optionally substituted aromatic carbocyclic ring or an optionally substituted 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring which may be fused with a benzene ring, and

when ring A, ring B and/or ring C is an optionally substituted 5-membered heterocyclic ring, W¹, W² and/or W³ is a bond;

X is a single bond, -O-, -CH₂-, -NR¹- (wherein R¹ is hydrogen, optionally substituted lower alkyl, lower alkenyl or lower alkylcarbonyl) or -S(O)-p- wherein p is an integer of 0 to 2;

Y is hydrogen, optionally substituted lower alkyl, optionally substituted lower alkoxy, optionally substituted lower alkenyl, optionally substituted lower alkynyl, optionally substituted acyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted cycloalkenyl, optionally substituted lower alkoxy carbonyl, optionally substituted sulfamoyl, optionally substituted amino, optionally substituted aryl or optionally substituted 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic group;

R¹ and Y taken together may form -(CH₂)_m-, -(CH₂)₂-T-(CH₂)₂- wherein T is O, S or NR', -CR'=CH-CH=CR', -CH=N-CH=CH-, -N=CH-N=CH-, -C(=O)-O-(CH₂)_r-, -C(=O)-NR'-(CH₂)_r- or -C(=O)-NR'-N=CH- wherein m is 4 or 5, r is 2 or 3 and R' is hydrogen, lower alkyl or lower alkenyl;

Y may be halogen when X is -CH₂- or -NR¹- and

Y may be optionally substituted lower alkylsulfonyl or optionally substituted arylsulfonyl when X is -O- or -NR¹-;

one of V¹ and V² is a single bond and the other is -O-, -NH-, -OCH₂-, -CH₂O-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, -CH(OR²)-wherein R² is hydrogen or lower alkyl, -CO-, -NHCHR³- or -CHR³NH-

wherein R³ is hydrogen or hydroxy,

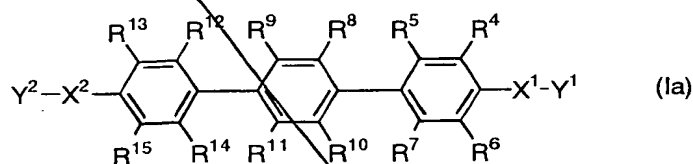
or a prodrug, pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

2. The pharmaceutical composition for use as a Th2 differentiation inhibitor as claimed in Claim 1 wherein X is -O- or -NR¹- wherein R¹ is hydrogen, lower alkyl or lower alkenyl.

3. The pharmaceutical composition for use as a Th2 differentiation inhibitor as claimed in Claim 1 wherein Y is optionally substituted lower alkyl or optionally substituted lower alkenyl.

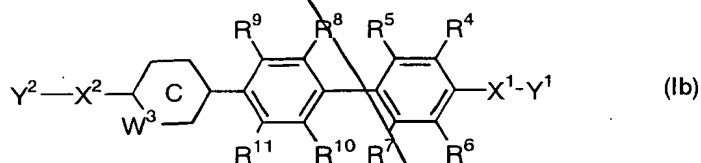
4. The pharmaceutical composition for use as a Th2 differentiation inhibitor as claimed in Claim 1 wherein both of V¹ and V² are single bonds.

5. A pharmaceutical composition for use as a Th2 differentiation inhibitor comprising a compound represented by Formula (Ia):



wherein each of R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹, R¹², R¹³, R¹⁴ and R¹⁵ is independently hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, optionally substituted lower alkyl, optionally substituted lower alkoxy, carboxy or lower alkoxycarbonyl; each of X¹ and X² is independently -O-, -CH₂- or -NH-; each of Y¹ and Y² is independently optionally substituted lower alkyl, optionally substituted arylalkyl or optionally substituted lower alkenyl, or a prodrug, pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

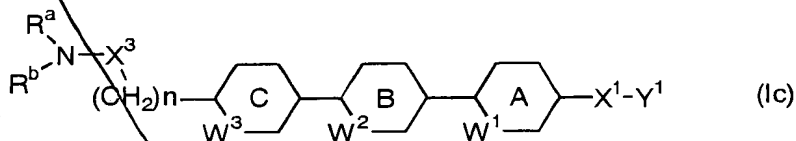
6. A pharmaceutical composition for use as a Th2 differentiation inhibitor comprising a compound represented by Formula (Ib):



wherein ring C is an optionally substituted 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring containing 1 or 2 hetero atoms, and when ring C is a 5-membered heterocyclic ring, W³

is a bond and other symbols have the meanings defined in Claim 5,
or a prodrug, pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

7. A pharmaceutical composition for use as a Th2 differentiation inhibitor
comprising a compound represented by Formula (Ic):



wherein each of ring A, ring B and ring C is independently an optionally substituted
benzene ring or an optionally substituted 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring containing
1 or 2 heteroatoms, and

10 when ring A, ring B and/or ring C is an optionally substituted 5-membered heterocyclic
ring, W¹, W² and/or W³ is a bond;

X¹ and Y¹ have the meanings defined in Claim 5;

X³ is -O- or -NH-;

15 each of R^a and R^b is independently hydrogen, optionally substituted lower alkyl,
optionally substituted lower alkenyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted
cycloalkyl, optionally substituted acyl, optionally substituted lower alkoxy carbonyl or
optionally substituted lower alkylsulfonyl, or they are taken together to form R^cR^dC= or
-(CR^eR^f)_s;

20 each of R^c and R^d is independently hydrogen, optionally substituted lower alkyl,
optionally substituted lower alkenyl, optionally substituted lower alkynyl, optionally
substituted lower alkoxy, optionally substituted lower alkylthio, optionally substituted
lower alkenyloxy, optionally substituted lower alkynyloxy, optionally substituted
cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl or optionally substituted 5- or 6-membered
heterocyclyl or they are taken together with a carbon atom to which they are attached
to form optionally substituted cycloalkylidene;

25 each R^e is independently hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy or amino, and each R^f is
independently hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy or amino;

n is an integer of 0 to 2 and s is an integer of 2 to 6,

5 Sub B1
or a prodrug, pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

8. The pharmaceutical composition for use as a Th2 differentiation inhibitor as claimed in Claim 1, 2, 3, 4 or 7 wherein ring A is an optionally substituted benzene ring.

5 9. The pharmaceutical composition for use as a Th2 differentiation inhibitor as claimed in Claim 1, 2, 3, 4 or 7 wherein ring B is an optionally substituted benzene ring.

10 10. The pharmaceutical composition for use as a Th2 differentiation inhibitor as claimed in Claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 or 7 wherein ring C is an optionally substituted benzene ring, an optionally substituted pyridine ring, an optionally substituted pyrimidine ring, an optionally substituted pyridazine ring or an optionally substituted pyrazine ring.

11. The pharmaceutical composition for use as a Th2 differentiation inhibitor as claimed in Claim 5 or 6 wherein one of R⁴ and R⁵ is hydrogen, hydroxy or lower alkyl and the other is hydrogen or halogen, and both of R⁶ and R⁷ are hydrogens.

15 12. The pharmaceutical composition for use as a Th2 differentiation inhibitor as claimed in Claim 5 or 6 wherein each of R⁸ and R¹¹ is independently hydrogen, hydroxy, lower alkyl or lower alkoxy, and each of R⁹ and R¹⁰ is independently hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy or lower alkoxy.

20 13. The pharmaceutical composition for use as a Th2 differentiation inhibitor as claimed in Claim 5 wherein each of R¹², R¹³, R¹⁴ and R¹⁵ is independently hydrogen or halogen.

14. The pharmaceutical composition for use as a Th2 differentiation inhibitor as claimed in Claim 5 or 6 wherein one of X¹ and X² is -O- and the other is -NH-.

25 Sub B1
15. The pharmaceutical composition for use as a Th2 differentiation inhibitor as claimed in Claim 5 or 6 wherein each of Y¹ and Y² is independently optionally halogen-substituted lower alkyl or optionally halogen-substituted lower alkenyl.

16. The pharmaceutical composition for use as a Th2 differentiation inhibitor as claimed in Claim 5 or 6 wherein one of -X¹-Y¹ and -X²-Y² is prenylamino and the other is prenyloxy.

17. The pharmaceutical composition for use as a Th2 differentiation inhibitor as claimed in Claim 6 or 7 which is a therapeutic and/or prophylactic agent against an autoimmune disease.

Sub B1
18. The pharmaceutical composition for use as a Th2 differentiation inhibitor as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 16 which is a therapeutic and/or prophylactic agent against ulcerative colitis, myasthenia gravis or lupus nephritis.

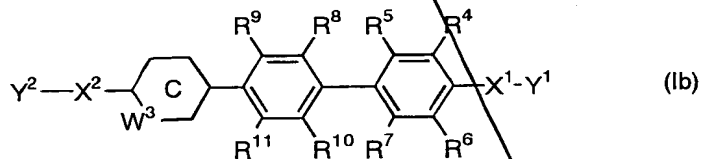
19. A method for treating and/or preventing a disease caused by Th2 cells or cytokines produced by Th2 cells comprising administering the compound represented by Formula (I) according to Claim 1 or a prodrug, pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

Sub B1
20. A method for inhibiting the differentiation from Th0 cells to Th2 cells comprising administering the compound represented by Formula (I) according to Claim 1 or a prodrug, pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

21. Use of the compound represented by Formula (I) according to Claim 1 or a prodrug, pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof for producing a medicament for treating and/or preventing a disease caused by Th2 cells or cytokines produced by Th2 cells.

22. Use of the compound represented by Formula (I) according to Claim 1 or a prodrug, pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof for producing a medicament for inhibiting the differentiation from Th0 cells to Th2 cells.

23 (NEW). A pharmaceutical composition for use as a Th2 differentiation inhibitor comprising a compound represented by Formula (Ib):



wherein ring C is an optionally substituted 6-membered heterocyclic ring containing 1 or 2 hetero atoms and other symbols have the meanings defined in Claim 5, or a prodrug, pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.